

**Mt. San Antonio College Faculty Association
Representative Council Meeting Minutes – Amended 12/7/21**

September 7, 2021

via Zoom

Present: Allende, Alvarez-Galván, Anders, Birca, Burman, Caldwell, Chan, Christ, Crichlow, Daland, Doonan, EcheverriaNewberry, Ellwood, Espy, Esslinger, Ezzell, Foisia, Greco, Greenberg, Heredia, Horton, Howell, Hughey, James-Perez, Jones, Kaljumägi, Knapp, Komrosky, Kunkler, Lackey, Lancaster, Landeros, Lopez (Alixandria), Lopez (Audra), Martinez, McLaughlin, Meyer, Miho, Nakamatsu, Nakamura, Nejad, Nixon, Pascoe, Pellitteri, Ponce, Quinn, Rivera, Rojas, Roueintan, Solodjagin, Springfield, Staylor, Summers, Uyeki, Wasson, Wolf, Wood, Woolery

Guest(s): R. Devitt (CTA Liaison), M. Hood, S. Kolta, J. Laverty, C. McKee, M. Shear

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:41am.

II. Approval of Agenda with Flexibility

Motion to approve the agenda with flexibility (Chan), seconded (Wolf). The agenda was approved with flexibility: 36 in favor, 1 opposed.

III. Approval of Minutes of June 1

Motion to approve minutes from the meeting on June 1, 2021 (Chan), seconded (Howell). The minutes were approved: 42 in favor, 4 abstained.

IV. Reports

A. President- Emily Woolery

1. Emily welcomed the faculty back for the fall semester and thanked them for serving their departments and the members by being on the Representative Council.
2. **Office Staff and Hours:** Vera Suwantararungsi is staffing the FA office Monday – Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The office is located in building 23, room 5100. Susan Azelton retired after providing many years of service to the FA, members, and faculty in general.
3. **Return to Campus:** Emiy stated that she has been hearing concerns about accommodation requests not being followed per the side letter agreements and that they are not being handled in a timely manner, and that the side letter agreements are not supporting faculty in all areas. FA has had challenges in obtaining accurate and current information about the number of Covid-19 cases on campus and the number of classes that transitioned from the modality of

face-to-face to online.

4. **Faculty Association Forums – Fall 2021 Return to Campus:** Two forums are being held this week on Zoom for all faculty for the FA to hear about the faculty's experiences returning to campus.

5. **Benefits Open Enrollment:** All full-time faculty must meet with American Fidelity for health benefits open enrollment due to enrollment for faculty going to an online process. All information needs to be confirmed as correct. The meeting should not be including sales pitches; however, Emily has heard from faculty that sales pitches have occurred. There was a comment about Flexible Spending Account deduction commitments being too early this year; with 4 months still left in the year, it's difficult to predict for next year.

6. **Appointments**

a) The following appointments were approved at the August 31 Executive Board meeting:

(1) Employee Wellness Committee: Misty Kolchakian,
Psychology

(2) CCA 2021 Fall Conference Delegates: Maya Alvarez-Galván,
English; Linda Chan, Mathematics; Joshua Christ, Theater; Sandy
Esslinger, Art History; Herschel Greenberg, English; Tamra
Horton, English; Ellen Straw, English; Emily Woolery, Library;
Judy Lawton, Political Science

7. **Professional Development Council**

a) Conference & Travel funding is available for both in person and virtual conferences and applications can be made at

<https://www.mtsac.edu/pod/conference-and-travel/forms.html>.

Once approved the faculty member will be using Chrome River to handle

expenses for up to \$1800.

Sheila Espy asked about classes that must stay on campus even when positive cases arise due to special equipment needed for instruction in some of her discipline's classes.

What is the plan for faculty who must remain on campus in such high risk situations?

Tamra Horton recommended that Sheila attend the forums this week.

Tania Anders announced a FA appointed vacancy on the Faculty Professional Development Council.

B. Vice President- Tamra Horton

1. Tamra introduced herself and stated that two main areas of responsibilities are handling grievances and membership. She shared Faculty Association Contract Tips Series (FACTS) Day's [attendance numbers](#) from the summer, totalling 252.

Invited members to request specific topics for future FACT workshops.

C. Treasurer- Linda Chan

1. Linda presented the [year end budget report](#) from 2020-21 and the current year's [budget report](#). No expenses have been paid yet. A question was asked about the "membership benefits workshop" budget line item of \$500.00. Emily responded that she thinks it had been used to purchase food for attendees and that it has not been used for the past couple of years. Linda said it is remaining a line item for this year.

V. Negotiation Report

No report; side letter negotiations for Fall 2021 Semester were completed in the summer.

Representative Council Members had some questions:

- Some have asked if side letters will be negotiated for spring semester. The union does not know at this time.
- A question confirming that we are still behind on contract negotiations. Clarification that we do have a current contract, which was negotiated in 2019 and covers 2019-2022. Sandra Esslinger clarified that we are behind on reopener negotiations for 21-22. She also clarified that the only automatic re-opener items are salary and benefits.
- A question about whether there will be a new side letter written for librarians and counselors, or will the current side letters include language for librarians and counselors. This question was raised due to President Scroggins having recently interpreted negotiated side letters to exclude counselors and librarians. FA response was that all faculty, including counselors and librarians, are represented in the current side letters.
- A representative pointed out that the current Zoom meeting chat reflects members' interest in having assurance that the remainder of the 5.07% COLA for 21-22 be negotiated for this year.

VI. Old Business - Action Items

A. 2021 – 2022 Election Results – update to FA banking

Motion to approve the election results from spring 2021 (Alvarez- Galván), seconded (Howell). Motion passed: 44 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained.

Maya Alvarez- Galván made a motion to replace the current authorized banking signatures (Elizabeth Ward, past Faculty Association Secretary and Joan Sholars, past Faculty Association President) with the newly elected officers (Tamra Horton, Faculty Association Vice President and Victoria Greco, Faculty Association Secretary). The motion was seconded by Luisa Howell. Motion passed: 41 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained. The current banking signatures of Emily Woolery, Faculty Association President and Linda Chan, Faculty Association Treasurer remain.

VII. New Business – Discussion Items

A. Article 18 and DEI Workgroup

A call out to all members to serve on the workgroup. To date, 12 faculty have expressed interest.

B. 2021 CCA Fall Conference (Virtual) October 15-17, 2021.

Delegate spaces are still available. Members are to contact Emily if they would like to attend as a delegate. A bargaining session will be offered in addition to others.

C. FA Membership Campaign (on-campus)

October 24-28, 2021. October 24th would be a dinner and the other dates will be an on-campus campaign.

VIII. Other Reports

A. Academic Senate- Chisa Uyeki

Committee vacancies and Professional learning Coordinator. Creation of a Task Force to consider changes to the Withdrawal deadline from 60%-75% of the course duration. Nominations are open for a one-year Director seat. The faculty request hiring memo will be going out to Divisions. The College will be getting funding for faculty hiring from the State, but the money does not need to be used until 2023. President Scroggins has stated that most likely the college will remain at the current FON. AMAC accepted the Academic Senate's recommendation to continue the EW. EW is still available, but students are required to petition for it and no refund will be issued. The Academic Senate and Faculty Association have been communicating about what each has heard from faculty regarding the return to fall semester. Both will be communicating with the Board of Trustees and the College's administration about the faculty's experiences.

B. Adjunct Faculty Advisory Committee- Herschel Greenberg

September 21, 2021 is the first meeting from 11:30am-1:00pm. Herschel has heard the following misconceptions from some adjunct faculty: 1. Some thought that FOMAR was still in effect as qualifying them to teach online for fall semester and 2. Some thought they could independently make the decision to switch their teaching modality from in-person to online. Herschel is hearing from adjunct faculty that they regret the decision to teach on campus.

M. Alvarez-Galván reported that the deans are sending confusing information to the faculty when there is a positive case in a class. Luis EcheverriaNewberry from Counseling- Veterans Resource Center spoke about a current case closing down the VRC temporarily and that communication was lacking. His understanding of the contact

tracing procedure is that the student testing positive is asked who they have come in contact with to determine those needed to be contacted by the contact tracers. He and other faculty and staff were not contacted by the contact tracers although the student had occupied their center's space. It was reported that a group of managers is currently working on a protocol for campus centers, such as tutoring and other open space student centers, in order for better accounting of who occupied a given center space during a given time so those individuals can be identified and contacted. Other questions asked: Is Mt. SAC prepared for the potential positive cases that may be identified as testing gets underway this week? The FA is not able to speak to the District's level of preparedness; however, there is evidence that it is lacking. Is there a certain number that will shut down the campus? Emily is not aware of a threshold that would result in a campus-wide shut down.

C. CCA Director J Report - No report

D. CTA State Council - No written report

Eric Kaljumägi announced that the first meeting is October 15-17, 2021. Eric stated that the meeting is likely going to be virtual rather than in person as planned.

Joshua Christ announced that CTA encourages a vote of No in the governor recall special election.

E. CTA Service Center One Council- No written report

Eric gave an overview- State Council delegates and Local Area delegates meet to discuss matters prior to the State Council meeting.

IX. Announcements

A. Board of Trustees Meeting: September 8 at 6:30pm

B. FA Faculty Forums: Thursday, 9/9 and Friday, 9/10. See flyer.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.

Respectfully submitted: Vicki Greco